

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of the claims in this application.

Listing of claims:

1. (Currently amended) A method for the synthesis of an α benzyl group-protected alpha-galloylmonosaccharide pentagalloylglucose (α -PGG) precursor comprising consisting essentially of the steps of:

- a) suspending a highly reactive acylation agent and an acylating catalyst in a donor solvent;
- b) adding a monosaccharide α -D-glucose or an analogue thereof to the mixture; and
- c) reacting the mixture at room temperature for a time sufficient for reaction to occur;

wherein the reaction product comprises the benzyl group-protected alpha-galloylmonosaccharide α -PGG precursor or analogue thereof.

2. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising consisting essentially of the steps of:

- d) evaporating the solvent from the mixture of step (c);
- e) taking up the residue in a second solvent;
- f) filtering the residue and second solvent mixture; and
- g) evaporating off the second solvent.

3. (Currently amended) The method of claim 2 further ~~comprising consisting essentially of~~ the step of hydrogenating the product of step (g) to yield an alpha-galloylmonosaccharide α -PGG or an analogue thereof.
4. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the highly reactive acylating agent is an acid chloride.
5. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the acylating catalyst is a pyridine derivative.
6. (Currently amended) The method of claim 5 wherein the pyridine derivative acylating catalyst is 4-(N,N-dimethylamino)pyridine (DMAP).
7. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the analogue of α -D-glucose monosaccharide is selected from the group consisting of hexoses, pentoses, and tetroses.
8. (Currently amended) The method of claim 7 ~~wherein the analogue of α -D-glucose is selected from the group consisting of α -D-glucose, hexoses, pentoses, and tetroses~~ wherein the ring oxygen of the ~~α -D-glucose~~, hexoses, pentoses, and tetroses has been replaced with an atom selected from the group consisting of carbon, nitrogen, and sulfur.
9. (Currently amended) The method of claim 7 wherein the analogue of α -D-glucose monosaccharide is a hexose.
10. (Currently amended) The method of claim 9 wherein the hexose is selected from the group consisting of glucose, galactose, mannose, idose, talose, altrose, allose, gulose, fructose, and combinations thereof.
11. (Currently amended) The method of claim 7 wherein the analogue of α -D-glucose monosaccharide is a pentose.
12. (Original) The method of claim 11 wherein the pentose is selected from the group consisting of xylose, ribose, arabinose, lyxose, and combinations thereof.

13. (Currently amended) The method of claim 7 wherein the ~~analogue of α -D-glucose~~ monosaccharide is a tetrose.
14. (Original) The method of claim 13 wherein the tetrose is selected from the group consisting of threose, erythrose, and combinations thereof.
15. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the mixture of step (c) is allowed to react for several hours.
16. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the donor solvent is selected to produce a ratio α -galloylmonosaccharide PGG to β -galloylmonosaccharide PGG (α : β ratio) of at least 90:10.
17. (Original) The method of claim 16 wherein the donor solvent is selected to produce an α : β ratio of at least 95:5.
18. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the donor solvent is selected from the group consisting of acetonitrile, 1,4-dioxane, and tetrahydrofuran.
19. (Original) The method of claim 18 wherein the donor solvent is acetonitrile.
20. (Original) The method of claim 2 wherein the second solvent is toluene.
21. (Original) The method of claim 2 wherein the second solvent is heated.
22. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the ~~ratio α -PGG to β -PGG~~ (α : β ratio[[]]) is greater than 90:10.
23. (Original) The method of claim 22 wherein the α : β ratio is greater than 95:5.
24. (New) The method of claim 10 wherein the hexose is glucose.
25. (New) The method of claim 24 wherein the glucose is D-glucose.
26. (New) The method of claim 26 wherein the D-glucose is α -D-glucose.

27. (New) The method of claim 1 wherein the monosaccharide is an α -monosaccharide.